

§ 174.15 Consolidation of protests filed by different parties.

(a) *General.* Subject to paragraph (b) of this section, separate protests relating to one category of merchandise covered by an entry shall be considered as a single protest whether filed as a single protest or filed as separate protests relating to the same category by one or more parties in interest or an authorized agent.

(b) *NAFTA transactions.* The following rules shall apply to a consolidation of multiple protests concerning a determination of origin under subpart G of part 181 of this chapter if one of the protests is filed by or on behalf of an exporter or producer described in § 174.12(a)(5) of this part:

(1) If consolidation under paragraph (a) of this section is pursuant to specific written requests for consolidation received from all interested parties who filed protests under this part, those interested parties shall be deemed to have waived their rights to confidentiality as regards business information within the meaning of § 181.121 of this chapter. In such cases, a separate notice of the decision will be issued to each interested party under this part but without regard to whether the notice reflects confidential business information obtained from one but not all of those interested parties.

(2) If consolidation under paragraph (a) of this section is done by the port director in the absence of specific written requests for consolidation from all interested parties who filed protests under this part, no waiver of confidentiality by those interested parties shall be deemed to have taken place. In such cases, a separate notice of the decision will be issued to each interested party and each such notice shall adhere to the principle of confidentiality set forth in § 181.121 of this chapter.

[T.D. 94-1, 58 FR 69472, Dec. 30, 1993]

§ 174.16 Limitation on protests after reliquidation.

A protest shall not be filed against the decision of the port director on reliquidation upon any question not involved in the reliquidation.

Subpart C—Review and Disposition of Protests**§ 174.21 Time for review of protests.**

(a) *In general.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the port director shall review and act on a protest filed in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514), within 2 years from the date the protest was filed. If several timely filed protests are treated as part of a single protest pursuant to § 174.15, the 2-year period shall be deemed to run from the date the last such protest was filed in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514).

(b) *Protests relating to exclusion of merchandise.* If the protest relates to an administrative action involving exclusion of merchandise from entry or delivery under any provision of the Customs laws, the port director shall review and act on a protest filed in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514), within 30 days from the date the protest was filed, unless the person filing the protest shall request an additional delay for the purpose of presenting evidence or argument with respect to the matters involved in the protest. In no event shall the port director (or the Commissioner of Customs or his designee if the protest is the subject of further review as provided for in §§ 174.25 and 174.26) delay action on the protest beyond 30 days, or such additional time period as may be agreed to by the person filing the protest. Any protest filed pursuant to this paragraph shall clearly so state on its face.

[T.D. 74-37, 39 FR 2470, Jan. 22, 1974]

§ 174.22 Accelerated disposition of protest.

(a) *Request for accelerated disposition.* Accelerated disposition of a protest filed in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514) may be obtained at any time after 90 days from the filing of such protest, by filing by registered or certified mail a written request for accelerated disposition with the port director to whom the protest was addressed.